GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3814
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002
PERSONAL STORY IN WEATHER NEWS ON DOORDARSHAN
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Mausam Samachar Rok Apne Bhai ke Restaurant ki Story Dikha Di` appearing in the `Rashtriya Sahara` dated June 25, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken against the erring officials;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such events in future; and

(d) the guidelines laid down for showing the main news-items of the news papers on Doordarshan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): Programme matters of Doordarshancome under the purview of Prasar Bharati, which is an autonomous statutory Corporation. The Government does notinterfere in such matters. Prasar Bharati has informed thatthe said story had been received through a news agency and had been covered by other T.V. channels, before Doordarshan news had telecast it. Prasar Bharati has further informed that the weather bulletin could not be telecast on 23rd June, 2002 because of heavy news fall. The weather bulletin is generally included in the news bulletin but some times it is dropped because of news fall and time constraint. News bulletins are monitored by the Supervisory Officer.

(d): Prasar Bharati has informed that there are no specific guidelines for showing themain news items of the newspapers on Doordarshan. Front page headline story ofvarious regional newspapers are included, subject to availability of time, in the morning bulletins every day.